

THE Capitol NEWS

FROM HOLLYWOOD

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New Year Brings Crisis To Bands; Woody and Others Chop Payrolls

THE NEW year has brought radical changes in the music profession. Several of the nation's most popular maestri have junked their bands; others have disbanded temporarily and are awaiting reorganizations with less expensive sidemen.

Cutting Payrolls Popular

Woody Herman, Les Brown and Benny Goodman are now in Hollywood without bands, but all hope to organize shortly with payrolls cut from around \$5,000 to \$3,000. Goodman is using a studio group (see page 52 for his radio show).

Harry James hopes to reorganize in January after two months without an orchestra. Tommy Dorsey also is going off. Ditto Benny Carter. Jerry Wald just reorganized completely. Jack Teagarden dropped his orch and formed a small combo. There is talk that Jimmy Dorsey soon will break up his aggregation.

Bandleaders Are Worried

The new year finds bandleaders worried. The trend, for the first time in five years, is toward smaller orchestras, and sidemen who will work for \$100 rather than \$200 and \$250 a week. Business in ballrooms, hotels and night clubs is at least 30 per cent under that a year ago.

Individual stories surrounding the bands will be found in this issue of the Capitol News.



THAT LILTIN' Tilton gal, Martha, is back home in California to stay awhile, and already she is being featured regularly on the NBC Sunday "Meet Me at Parky's" program emanating from Hollywood. Opie Cates, the Arkansas maestro who raises hogs at his California ranch, conducts the orchestra behind La Belle Tilton's animated chirpings on the program. Martha's newest Capitol etching pairs "Connecticut" with "How Are Things in Glocia Morra," the latter a hit tune from the new Broadway show, "Finian's Rainbow." In private life Martha is the wife of Leonard Vannerson, widely known artist's manager. Benny Goodman boosted her along the road to success in 1937.



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pop-offs

Hotel Lincoln
New York City

Gentlemen:

As one who travels extensively, and whose ears are ever-alert to new music, new trends, on new records, it appears significant that vast changes have recently been taking place within the recording industry. Perhaps my observations will prove interesting, even informative, to you and to your many thousands of readers of the Capitol News.

I am a layman, as the musicians say, but I love music more than anything else I am aware of. I read that swing bands are disappearing, that "sweet" music is coming back fast, that the record business is booming, that it is slumping, that swing is on the upbeat—it's all confusing and not amusing.

But based on visits and discussions in more than 500 record shops from Los Angeles to Boston the past six months, I offer you the following observations for what they may be worth as the new year arrives:

The small labels are fast disappearing. Most record buyers, I believe, welcome this trend. I have more than 150 labels in my collection; virtually all of them are notable for inferior balance, bad surfaces, backing a shoddy tune with a good tune and—inevitably—costing a dollar or more. They are overpriced and under-quality. We consumers were forced to buy them a year ago when production of established labels and top artists was limited. Now we want no part of the hybrid output.

As for styles, there isn't any appreciable trend. Kenton, Herman, Goodman, James and a dozen other top-notch "jump" bands still sell the most records. Their music is still the most refreshing, the most original.

The companies which maintain high quality in studio balance, in surfaces, in calibre of talent and in selection of tunes need have no worries. America loves good music—and good records. But we want the best, at a fair price.

HAROLD M. HARWOOD.



DAVE DEXTER'S surface noise

Enter 1947: The Gravy Train Slows Down

THE BUBBLE has burst, busted wide open, pricked and exploded. There will be vast changes in music this new year and for a long time to come. A lot of untalented, ill-equipped guys who have been leading third-rate bands and getting away with it have faded or soon will exit from the picture; a legion of inferior musicians who cockily drew inflated paychecks, since Pearl Harbor, will be lucky to get union scale for their efforts. Spring will be a little late this year. But only for those who are overdue in receiving their comeuppance.

Toward the close of 1946 things became so bad—so unbalanced—that a man like Woody Herman, who slaved and sacrificed nine years to win success, found himself earning nothing while a half-dozen of his sidemen were cashing weekly paychecks of more than \$250 each. It didn't make sense. Nor did it make sense to Goodman, Les Brown, Tommy Dorsey, Benny Carter, Harry James and other popular leaders who fought their way into the charmed circle the hard way.

It's all a part of the adjustment that Americans in all walks of life are now making following the war years. It has happened before and it will happen again, human beings being what we are. Things look bad right now. But they looked worse in 1921.

Better times are coming, not only for those of the music profession, but for Americans engaged in all types of endeavors. Perhaps the year 1947 will bring proof. Certainly the war years, and 1946, were anything but 365-day picnics. The better musicians, the better bands, the better singers and the better entertainers will enjoy their greatest harvests in the next 12 months. But the kolos, the dipsy boys, the untalented—all those performers who cashed in and profited by the personnel shortage—had better resume their lessons. The new year holds little in store for them. From here on out American music lovers can expect—and demand—more for their money. They're back in the driver's seat again.

Short Shots From Here and There

LOS ANGELES songpluggers are peeved—and protesting—because two or three major ballrooms have revoked their admish passes. They feel they shouldn't have to pay to enter inasmuch as it's strictly "business" . . . That Count Basie recording deal last month set a new high for intrigue. Basie himself doesn't quite know what happened . . . Boyd Raeburn's backer, Stillman Pond, bought up every Down Beat he could find in L. A. to insure Raeburn's placing in the annual poll. But that doesn't mean that Ned Williams accepted the heavy shipment of ballots carrying California postmarks . . . At press time it looked as if Ray Herbeck would replace Vido Musso at Meadowbrook. Musso's outfit developed fast, and is styled excitingly a la Basie . . . The King Cole Trio won more polls last month than any music group in history. Even topped its 1945 haul . . . And to those who have submerged this pillar with queries, you obtain the new "Jazz Cavalcade" book by sending three bucks to Criterion Music Press, R. K. O. Building, New York City . . . Welcome 1947, and may you bring good things to those who deserve 'em. I Ain't Mad at You (And You Ain't Mad at Me).

Theaters, Then Coast for Kenton

Big Payroll No Problem to Stan

Stan Kenton's high-flying aggregation moved from the Paramount Theater on New York's Times Square to a long series of eastern one-nighters in late December, and while other leaders were screaming and complaining about "poor box-office everywhere" the SK band went right on racking up high grosses night after night.

Change in First Alto Chair

Eddie Myers, a highly regarded first chair altoist who worked with Kenton once before, rejoined the reed section. Myers took over Al Anthony's book.

Herb Jeffries was reported to be joining Stan as vocalist. But the deal fell through after all the music mags announced it. Herb, who once sang with Duke Ellington and who, in recent years, has been working as a single in California, definitely will not join Kenton for the January theater tour which the "Artistry in Rhythm" outfit is now beginning.

Soon Will Hire Vocal Group

Kenton, however, will hire a vocal group shortly. He still is scheduled to return to California, with the band, in February. Whether the ork will play the Los Angeles Avodan or the H'wood Palladium has not yet been determined, however.

Stan's weekly payroll now is "more than \$5,500 and still going up," according to his pudgy manager, Carlos Gastel. But so far the tall pianopounder has announced no plan for whittling it down.



SKITTISH SKITCH Henderson and "Geraldo," noted British bandleader who recently visited New York and Hollywood, are photoed together on a Bing Crosby-Philco rehearsal. Henderson's solo piano is featured on the program, and also on Capitol etchings. "Geraldo" actually is Gerald Bright. Few of Skitch's American fans know that Skitch, too, was born in Great Britain.

Jess Stacy, Other Vets Rejoin Goodman for NBC Program

Benny Goodman returned to the west coast in December without a band, but it didn't take him long to get together a crack studio outfit for his Monday night NBC program in which he shares billing with Victor Borge.

The biggest news surrounding Goodman's radio band is the return of Jess Stacy to the piano chair. Stacy, for several years one of the top BG sidemen, juked his own orchestra recently and will remain in Hollywood to play network shows. Red Ballard and Lou McGarrity, trombones, also are Goodman alumni who have returned and Babe Russin, on tenor, is still another who—years ago—was prominently showcased in the Goodman ensemble.

Others making the new Goodman unit include Ray Linn and Uan Rasey, trumpets; Tommy Pederson, trombone; Skeets Herfurt, Jack Chaney, Heinie Beau and Charles Gentry, reeds; Harry Babison, bass; Barney Kessel, guitar; and the veteran drummer Sammy Weiss.

It is likely that BG will make a movie or two while coasting, but he intends to keep his schedule down to a minimum.

'Sleeper' Pushing Price to Fame

"I Ain't Mad at You—And You Ain't Mad at Me."

That's the inane lyric that is making Jesse Price, veteran drummer and blues singer, a national favorite as the new year begins. Price has been singing the tune several years—he first heard it in Kansas City—but it wasn't until his Capitol record was released during the Christmas holidays that it caught on.

Now featured with his own small combo at Eddie's Cafe in San Diego, Price has hopped into the ranks of nationally-noted artists overnight, and already he is receiving offers from bookers to play eastern theaters.

off the cuff

ROY ELDRIDGE organized still another band last month and jumped at the chance to headline the show at Billy Berg's Club in Hollywood. It's a small combo, but sprightly, with Roy's heated horn pacing the festivities. Trombonist Trummie Young, Ken Kersey at the piano and Willie Smith on alto sax get billing along with the leader, and they broadcast at midnight over KFWB. Smith will probably rejoin Harry James' orchestra later this month. But he—and the Eldridge sidemen—are getting their kicks while the engagement lasts.

John Hammond, for 15 years rated as the world's greatest authority on hot jazz, spent 10 days in L. A. uncovering new talent and making the rounds. It was his first California visit in nearly five years.

West coast music fans would like to see Dick Stabile pitted against Illinois Jacquet for "high note" honors in a battle of the stratospheric saxophones. Dick emphasizes freak notes on his current Aragon Ballroom stand.

Boyd Raeburn, who has led a band two months out of the past 12 months, has advised friends his outfit has been selected the most popular "new" combo of 1946 in the Esquire mag poll to be announced shortly. And what makes it all the more intriguing is the fact that Raeburn has been leading a band for 10 years. Musicians await Esquire's explanation.

Orrin Tucker took his band east after a run at Casino Gardens.

MGM's Herbert Stothart is busy scoring "A Woman of My Own" film.

Paul Weston's next album may be titled "Music for Snoozing."

Corky Corcoran, tenor saxist, has been gigging around town with small combo while Harry James vacationed.



LITTLE JAZZ and Harry James greet each other in H'wood, Eldridge just having made his debut with a new small combo and Harry ready to reorganize his band again after a long vacation. James has a dozen horses stabled at Santa Anita and spends most of his spare time, with Betty Grable James, clocking bang-tails carrying his colors.

George Bassman quit as musical director at MGM after 11 years.

French film star Louis Jourdan arrived in Hollywood just a few days before Louis Jordan pulled into town with his *Tympany Seven*.

This year's Rose Bowl game failed to receive the attention of previous battles because of Big Nine conference tieup.

Alvino Rey, his wife Luise and several members of the Rey orchestra spent holidays in California before resuming eastern tour.

The Merry Macs, with Imogene Lynn as fem voice, off to San Francisco to play Golden Gate Theater opening Jan. 1.

THE CAPITOL

Herman Herd Awaits Call to 'Concerto' Set

Unattended by publicity, Woody Herman returned to Hollywood the day before Christmas and enjoyed the holidays with his wife and daughter in the new Herman home atop a mountain overlooking the Sun-set strip.

Herman, who hit the jackpot two years ago after struggling for success since 1937 with his own band, will spend part of January, he said, completing details of the "Concerto for Johnny" film production he has long planned. The final shooting script now is being readied for the cameras and Woody is meeting daily with his youthful arranger, Ralph Burns, to shape up the musical score completely.

Igor Stravinsky will play himself in the picture. It is expected, too, that Stravinsky's controversial "Ebony Concerto" also will be utilized in the movie.

The Herman herd has been playing theaters and one-night concerts throughout the Middlewest in recent weeks.

Herman's band will be virtually all-new when he reorganizes. All of his high-salaried sidemen will be gone, and that means that men like Bill Harris, Flip Phillips and Sonny Berman are out. Hollywood musicians will undoubtedly be hired by Woody, and at smaller salaries. But the picture is Woody's chief interest.

Ella Mae Morse Weds Navy Man

It was a surprise marriage for Ella Mae Morse Dec. 6 in Boston when she took vows with Lt. Commander Martin Gerber.

Miss Morse, on tour of the eastern theaters for several months, will continue her tour and an engagement at the famed New York Paramount is being skedded for spring.

Her husband is said to be a popular physician, and one who has a brilliant record in the service. Ella Mae's first husband, Dick Showalter, also was in the navy during the war. He is a pianist-arranger.

Glenn Henry on Tour

Glenn Henry's California band is touring the Pacific Northwest through the month of January.

Cole Rolls Along in Top Theaters

New Year Looms Big for His Trio

Following their boffo nine-week run with Stan Kenton's band at the N.Y. Paramount Theater and a short nitery engagement in Buffalo, the King Cole Trio this month hits the road on one of the longest theater tours ever booked.

Opening New Year's Day at the Royal in Baltimore, Nat and his men, Oscar Moore and Johnny Miller, will follow that run with a week at the Earle Theater in Philadelphia Jan. 10 through 16. And then in fast succession come these bookings at top money:

Howard Theater, Washington, D. C., Jan. 23-29; RKO, Boston, Jan. 30-Feb. 5; State, Hartford, Feb. 14-16; Downtown, Detroit, Feb. 20-26; RKO, Columbus, March 4-6; RKO, Cleveland, March 7-12; RKO, Cincinnati, March 13-19; Paradise, Detroit, April 12-17.

Occasional one-night stands will be played by Cole between theater engagements.

The overwhelming success of the group's "Christmas Song" record has boosted its stock to a new high as a box-office attraction. Mort Ruby is managing the group on the road.

'Mad Mab' on Deck At Casino Gardens

Charlie Barnet, the "mad mab" of the saxophone, followed Orrin Tucker's ork on the bandstand at Tom Dorsey's Casino Gardens Ballroom in Ocean Park outside L.A. in mid-December.

Son for the Malnecks

Matty and Claire Malneck, long prominent in West Coast music circles, parented an 8-pound son last month in nearby Santa Monica. Matty leads the band at Slapsy Maxie's nitery in Hollywood.



'Big Tea' Hit By Pneumonia

With Jack Teagarden ill at his Long Beach home, his younger brother Charlie took over the leadership of Jack's new small combo at the Hollywood Susie-Q Club on Dec. 10.

Teagarden last month juked his big band and reorganized with a jumping six-piece outfit, but shortly after opening at the Susie-Q was stricken with pneumonia. He is reported recovering rapidly.

Other members of the band still working with Charlie are George Everbach, drums; Don Owens, piano; Art Lyons, clarinet, and Dale Jones, Bass. Charlie's trumpet boots the band along in the absence of Jack's burry tram.

Reyes to Chicago

Chuy Reyes took his band to Chicago to open at the Copacabana on Dec. 26. It's a "latin" society ork featuring Reyes' piano.

Benny Carter, still resting, is shaping up a book on alto sax technique to be published this spring.

Peggy Lee with DAVE BARBOUR and His Orchestra

'Everything's Movin' Too Fast'
'It's Lovin' Time'

Capitol Records CAP. 343

ANDY RUSSELL and THE PIED PIPERS

with PAUL WESTON and His Orchestra

'It's Dreamtime'
'I'll Close My Eyes'

Capitol Records CAP. 342

Les Brown on Vacation, But Will Reorganize Band With Less Expensive Men

Back at his home in Beverly Hills and without a band for the first time since he entered Duke University more than a decade ago as an undergraduate, Les Brown has been doing some plain and fancy loafing and is in no rush to resume his career as a maestro.

Brown has never been able to take the time to enjoy family life.

Last year, when he purchased the house in Beverly Hills for his wife, son and daughter, he vowed that he would disband his orchestra "before much longer and forget the music biz for a while."

And that's precisely what he's doing.

But soon, in late February or March, Les will set sail again. Instead of a \$5,200 weekly payroll, however, he intends to limit it to \$3,000. His two brothers will return to blow horns. Also expected back is Butch Stone, singing sexist and comedian.

"Musicians' salaries got out of hand during the war years when sidemen were hard to get," Les says. "A guy who was inexperienced and who actually didn't deserve union scale of \$90 asked and got as much as \$150, \$200 and more. Things have changed. There'll be some new faces in my band when we roll again."

Brown will probably resume at a Hollywood ballroom. But instead of losing money every week, as he often has done in the past few years, he hopes to come out a few bucks ahead. And meanwhile he's having a ball with his youngsters.

Girl for Wallichses

Glenn and Dorothy Wallich accepted delivery of a '46 daughter last month at Cedars of Lebanon Hospital. She was named Susan. The father is vice-president and general manager of Capitol Records, Inc.

Charlie Spivak Opens

Current Palladium attraction is Charlie Spivak's band, which followed Tom Tucker's Christmas week.



HOT ATTRACTION despite the national entertainment slump is Louis Jordan, who returns to Hollywood night life Jan. 15 at Billy Berg's. This pose is from one of his recent motion pictures, made and produced in New York by his manager, Berle Adams.

Ed Bailey Prexy of Local 767 Again

Ed Bailey, for many years a leader in national music circles, was reelected president of Los Angeles Musician's Union 767 at the election held Dec. 10. It marks his tenth straight year as 767's chief. Leo Davis, Florence Cadre, Paul L. Howard and Leonard Davidson were other winners. Local 767's membership is comprised of Negro performers—800 strong—but only about 200 participated in the balloting.

Vic Dickenson feeling chipper again after long illness.

Merle Travis
WITH COWBOY BAND
**'SO ROUND, SO FIRM,
SO FULLY PACKED'
'SWEET TEMPTATION'**

Capitol RECORDS CAP. 349

Meet the Jockey!

SAMMY TAYLOR holds forth in the Pacific Northwest, at Station KWJJ in Portland, refusing to play what he calls "mickey" records and building his programs around excellent musicianship. Sammy is strictly a night-hawk at the mike, all his shows being aired between 10 p.m. and 1 a.m. Much of fan mail comes from Canada. A veteran of three years in the navy, he's noted for a fast spiel and a sincere knowledge and interest in music. His listeners have remained loyal for 10 years.



Jan. 15 Opener For Jordan Ork

While other bandleaders scream of poor box-office receipts, and ponder paying their sidemen, Louis Jordan heads towards California with his Tympany Seven chalking up record grosses on virtually every stand.

Jordan and his mad little crew play two weeks of theaters in Los Angeles before opening, on Jan. 15, at Billy Berg's boite on Hollywood's Vine street. Business has sagged at the spot the past few months and Berg himself is licking his chops and anticipating the engagement with an eye toward a rusty cash register which, he hopes, will soon be operating at full speed again with Jordan's opening.

Jordan, who once played saxophone in the late Chick Webb's band, is rated one of the mightiest "small combo" attractions in the world today. On his last trip to California he played the Trocadero.

For several years Jordan led a 5-man band, but the group now is seven strong with Louie singing and playing alto, soprano, tenor and clarinet to further demonstrate his versatility.

Anita O'Day will be held over through the LJ engagement, Berg said.

Film Score Scores

Alfred Wallenstein and the L. A. Philharmonic will perform the score of Warner Brothers' "Humoresque" film this month in Philharmonic Auditorium here.

Hollywood Leaps as Radio Center

Hal Bourn ork, Date With Judy: Tuesdays on NBC.

Charles Dant, Dennis Day: Thursdays on NBC.

Carmen Dragon ork, Drene: Sundays on NBC.

Matty Malneck, Duffy's Tavern: Wednesdays on NBC.

Roy Bargy, Durante & Moore: Fridays on CBS.

Billy Mills, McGee & Molly: Tuesdays on NBC.

Frank DeVol, Ginny Simms: Fridays on CBS.

Bernard Katz, H'wood Players: Tuesdays on CBS.

Lionel Newman ork, Star Time: Saturdays on CBS.

Desi Arnaz, Bob Hope: Tuesdays on NBC.

Rudy Schrager, Deal in Crime: Saturdays on ABC.

Jack Meakin, Joan Davis: Mondays on CBS.

Lou Kosloff, Life of Riley: Saturdays on NBC.

Lou Silvers, Lux: Mondays on CBS.

Al Sack, Maisie: Fridays on CBS.

Bernard Katz ork, Mayor of Town: Saturdays on CBS.

Opie Cates ork, Martha Tilton, Meet Me at Parky's: Sundays on NBC.

Irving Miller, Mel Blanc: Tuesdays on CBS.

Elliott Daniels ork, Pall Mall: Wednesdays on NBC.

Lou Kosloff ork, Finnegan: Thursdays on CBS.

Dave Forester, Anita Ellis, Red Skelton: Tuesdays on NBC.

Country Washburne, Saturday Night Roundup: NBC.

Wilbur Hatch ork, Lady Esther: Mondays on CBS.

Eddie Paul, Jack Haley: Thursdays on NBC.

Jolly Joyce ork, Sherlock Holmes: Saturdays on ABC.

Lud Gluskin, Suspense: Thursdays on CBS.



HOME AGAIN in Southern Cally, Jo Stafford is airing her NBC "Supper Club" show Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6000 Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood with the help of Paul Weston's music, the Starlighters and Martin Block.

Paul Smith ork, Eddie Bracken: Sundays on CBS.

Meredith Willson ork, Burns & Allen: Thursdays on NBC.

Ray Sinatra ork, Bob Burns: Sundays on NBC.

Charles Dant ork, Judy Canova: Saturdays on NBC.

Freddy Martin, Jack Carson: Wednesdays on CBS.

Ray Noble, Edgar Bergen: Sundays on NBC.

Kay Kyser: Wednesdays on NBC.

JUST OUT!
Jessie Price With His Orchestra
**'I AIN'T MAD AT YOU
(AND YOU AIN'T MAD AT ME)
Backed by
'I'M THE DRUMMER MAN'**

Capitol

Meet the Jockey!

AND NOW another new year is here, and with it comes increased activity in all phases of the music profession. Rarely credited for their efforts in popularizing the nation's orchestras and singers are the wax-whirlers—the disc jocks—who with their respective disc-a and data wield great influence with

millions of eager listeners everywhere!

Pictured below are 14 representative and popular platter pilots, men and women, too, who help make or break new attraction. These jocks sell everything from dog biscuits to diamonds. But they are vital in the 1947 entertainment picture.



RUSH HUGHES is a Middle-western favorite with his transcribed "Song and Dance Parade" over KXOK, St. Louis, and other stations.



FRED ROBBINS is a New York youngster who's "1280 Club" on WOV attracts one of the largest local audiences in the east.



JO ALLEN, at 23, conducts the "Romance and Dance" stanza on San Francisco's KSFO. She's a former WAC, and immensely popular.



RUSS COUGHLAN spins 'em on the KROW "Take It Easy" hour via Oakland. He's 27, and leans toward schmalz bands and singers.



ROGER CARROLL, still in his teens, gets his fans out of bed every morning with his cheery "Morning Neighbor" presentation.



ALAN MURTY holds forth in Denver's KMYR with his "Campus Club." A New Yorker, he's the hottest thing to hit Mountainair in years.



BOB BAKER emphasizes the "top ten" etchings on his afternoon airer over WTMV in St. Louis. He is frankly commercial in programming.



ANDY MANSFIELD calls his program simply "Stuff." It's on WKW in Pasadena daily at 1:35 p.m. Andy is a Cornell University alumnus.



CRAIG HARRIS, who can sell anything, spins wax on Oakland's KLX and is said to be the most "frantic" spieler in radio. He's heard daily from 2:30 to 4 p.m.

Donahue Band Will Tour With King Cole Trio

Swingin' Sam Donahue and his band will celebrate their first birthday anniversary in late January, and are set to play theaters in the company of the King Cole Trio starting Jan. 23 at the Howard in Washington and following, on Jan. 31, at the Royal in Baltimore.

Shirley Lloyd is the new singer with the band, replacing Betty George.

Leon Cox replaced Ken Meisel on trombone with Sam's ensemble. Fern Caron came in, on trumpet, succeeding Lyman Vunk.

Donahue, a topnotch tenor saxist with name bands before the war, is likely to be sponsored shortly on a coast to coast radio program by the U. S. Navy for recruiting pitches. His band records only for Capitol.

June Debut for New Block Stanza

Martin Block's debut as a jock on Warner Brothers' KFWB will not take place until next June. And although he has moved, with his family, from N. Y. to Hollywood and is already announcing Jo Stafford's NBC program Tuesdays and Thursdays, he declares he will "postpone" his start on KFWB for six months.

Block arrived on the coast in early November and was set to start his new series Dec. 7. But while his new show waits, he is still keeping active transcribing his daily sessions for broadcast over WNEW in New York. Meanwhile KFWB carries on with such jocks as Gene Norman, Pete Potter, Maurice Hart, Billy Anson, Joe Yocom, Lou Marcella, Frank Bull (the only Dixieland jazz fan at the station) and Allan Mann. Probably no other station in the world has so many wax-whirlers.



SWINGIN' SAM Donahue, soon to tour eastern theaters with the King Cole Trio, attracts the eyes of New York's loveliest models in this publicity stunt surrounding the introduction of Don Wolf's new "Get a Pin-Up Girl" song. Donahue's crack band introduced the ditty in December; this month they will observe the first birthday anniversary of the band. It was organized in January, 1946, following the leader's honorable discharge from the U. S. Navy. Shirley Lloyd has just joined Donahue as fem vocalist.

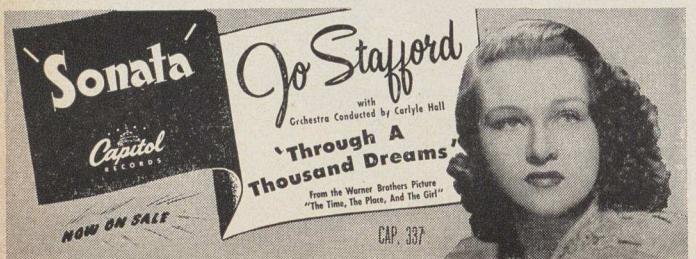
Musso May Hold At Meadowbrook

Vido Musso's current run at the Meadowbrook in Culver City has proved "surprisingly fine," according to Joe Zucca, who runs the ballroom. Maintaining a 60-cent admis- tab, and running six nights a week, the results have been good and Vido will probably stretch his engagement to six or eight weeks depending upon January business following the holidays.

Musso leads the band with his tenor sax. His singers include Skip Nelson and Lynne Stevens.

George Pal Mulls New Flicker Plan

Because of labor troubles, George Pal may soon abandon his "Puppetoons" and produce musical shorts. Woody Herman and Duke Ellington recently completed work in Pal productions and Charlie Spivak's band reports on the Pal set this month for another.



'Songshark' Racket Flourishing . . .

Amateurs Bite On Phony Ads

By SYDNEY BERMAN

Editor, the "Songwriter's Review"

AND SO it's another year—a new year in which there is hope renewed for a better world. That may well apply to music, too, and amateur songwriters in particular.

Irving Berlin once remarked, rather cryptically, that "there are 140,000,000 songwriters in the U.S.A." He probably looked up the 1940 census figures in making the remark but whether he hit the figure on the head or not, certainly he came close.

How They Clip You

Everyone has a song in him, and it usually takes the shape of a lyric or a completed melody that wends its way to legitimate music publishers, and then comes right back unopened.

The amateur songwriter—and that includes musicians, salesmen, housewives, bankers, prisoners, ministers and anyone who can turn the knob of a radio—finds out that the only reception his songs get is from a man who wants to write the melody or a company that will publish his tune for a fee. Some-where in the contract, in one of those small-print paragraphs, you're sure to find an agreement whereby you—the writer—turn over from \$25 to \$200 (or even more) in order to insure "completion" of the song, or get a record of it, or a publishing agreement, or other lure.

How the "Fees" Add Up!

This "fee" isn't small change. Every month, the United States copyright office publishes a list of copyright songs for that month. One finds in checking those lists that hundreds of ditties listed are partly written by professional melody writers. Last month, for example, there were 543 of these listed. One melody writer gets as much as \$60 a song, so you see it ain't tin.

Approximately \$5,000,000 goes down the trough every year. The amateur songwriter, finding no outlet except the shyster (whom we label the songshark), turns over that amount of money to see his name in print, to hear a record of his own song (which is supposed to go on thousands of jukeboxes, but never does), or to have a complete melody written for his song.

Of course, nothing ever happens to these songs, and that \$5,000,000 goes on every year, and a lot of "smart boys" in New York, Chicago and Hollywood



ANITA O'DAY popped back into the limelight in H'wood last month when she moved from the Morocco Club to Billy Berg's, where she appears six nights weekly as song star of the show in which Roy Eldridge's new band is also spotted. Her style hasn't changed much from her early Krupa days.—Photo by Charlie Mihm.

reap the benefits. They pocket just about all of that \$5,000,000.

Record Sales Exaggerated

One melody writer advertises that four of his records released by one major disc company sold over one-half million discs. The record company, when questioned, said it was ridiculous; it was nowhere near a half-million, and anyway, his songs were on the "B" side. But the professional melody writer goes right on advertising his record sales, and his ads are printed in many, many magazines.

Another company asked for \$75 to print 2000 professional copies and distribute them to all the radio stations. The company seldom did, and failed to live up to its contract in general. A hint to the Post Office, a few complaints from readers of the "Songwriter's Review," and this New York "publisher" closed up shop and scraped his name off the door.

Other companies issue "stock." So we got hold of the Securities Exchange Commission, and pumped them full of letters and contracts, and pretty soon a few more songsharks will be in jail.

For everyone put out of business, there are dozens replacing them, or staying in business. Most of them are just barely on the legal side, and the only thing that will put them out of business is an educational campaign.

Beware of "Songsharks"

Such a campaign has been instituted, and it is just getting into swing. So if you're a songwriter, get hep. That professional "melody writer" won't do you any good; no artist or publisher will consider a song half-written by a professional hack.

And those publishing outfits who promise publication for a fee are in business just to print your song, not to publish and popularize it. No legitimate music publisher advertises for songs; he doesn't have to. And no record company has to advertise for songs or records. Don't fall for the malarkey that permeates the press.

Make sure that your money isn't in that \$5,000,000 going down the drainpipe in 1947. Keep it in your pocket, and keep away from all the boys who want to "publish" or "record" your song—for a price.

Southern Cally Gigs For Bob Crosby Ork

The Bob Crosby orchestra is using Los Angeles as a base this month, following its Avodan Ballroom run, and playing weekend jobs in Southern California. Nelson Riddle joined the band as chief arranger. Gil Rodin continues as Crosby's mentor.





STRUGGLING FOR national recognition, Trumpeter Louis Ohls last month returned to the Middlewest after several months in Hollywood with a de-servicing young band that made a sock impression. Vocalist Toni Aubin and Altoist Art Pepper are shown with Ohls. You'll be hearing more about them as the new year rolls along.

Don't Count Him Out; The Count Still Jumps

He didn't win any of the hundreds of polls conducted this winter, but Count Basie goes along in his own serene way with a band that still outjumps every other outfit in the business. On his current Avodon Ballroom run in Los Angeles, Basie and his bandsman leap lightly on ballads and instrumentals alike, and a wealth of superb soloists lend punch to an ensemble that is one of the most powerful, musical and precise of any in dance band history.

Rhythm Section Impressive

Basie still slouches at the piano, appearing uninterested in the proceedings. But his rhythm section lays a deep groove and impresses as still the finest in the land. Basie's arrangements still emphasize the beat rather than unusual harmonic conceptions.

Barney McDevitt, the Avodon's manager, said he was pleased with the business the band has been doing since its Dec. 10 opening following Bob Crosby, who also proved profitable.

THE KING COLE TRIO

'THAT'S THE BEGINNING OF THE END'

VOCALS BY KING COLE

Capitol RECORDS

CAP. 328

'BUT SHE'S MY BUDDY'S CHICK'



vine street gab

IN CASE you've wondered, the Slim Gaillard Trio is back in Hollywood. Slim's present stand is the Florentine Gardens nitery where he shares billing with Pinky Lee, comic. Zutty Singleton is pounding the drums in the Gaillard combo.

Teddy Kaye replaced Wini Beatty as pianist with the Vivian Garry Trio.

About \$600 was realized by Charlie Emge and Ross Russell from their Club Royale benefit for Charlie (Yardbird) Parker, who has been ailing several months. Parker now is much improved.

Gene (Stuffy) Norman moved his noon "Mild and Mellow" show from KHJ-Mutual over to the indie KMPC, which now features 50,000 wattage. Norman continues nightly on KFWB and Sundays on KECA with same sponsor, an L.A. brewery.

Santa Anita is open again and they—the bangtails—are running.

Paul Weston planed back from N.Y. to make his debut as conductor on the NBC Chesterfield show with Jo Stafford.

The movie of the month, in the opinion of musicians, is Walt Disney's clever "Song of the South" feature. It didn't cost three million dollars to make, either.

It's a he-baby for the Dave Cavanaugh. Pop plays tenor sax and arranges for top orks; mother is the former Mildred Wax of Capitol Songs in N.Y. and H'wood.

Joe Lilley of Paramount put music to lyrics of new song, "Girl With the Convertible Top," which Columnist Erskine Johnson cleffed and will plug via his syndicated pillar.

Desi Arnaz and band made another short at Universal-International. Jane Harvey, who chirped with Benny Goodman, had a spot and also is featured with Desi nightly at Ciro's.

"New Orleans" film with Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday, Woody Herman and others will be premiered in New Orleans during Mardi Gras celebration starting Feb. 18.



CLARK DENNIS, whose tenor voice has been aired via the national networks many years, is the newest newcomer to the Capitol label. Dennis makes his debut this month with "Peg O' My Heart." He recently concluded as star of the show at Billingsley's Bocage, smart Hollywood supper club.

Washington Leads New 7-Man Ork

After 15 years as a sideman with several of America's best jazz bands, including the Louis Armstrong ork for seven years, Trombonist George Washington latched out in mid-December and formed his own small combo.

First engagement for George and his men was at the Plantation Club, which closed its doors on Jan. 1 and which will remain dark. Joe Morris, for several seasons operator of the club, took over as Washington's personal manager and expects to have the band set on a Los Angeles location by mid-January.

Backing the leader's tram, vocals and arrangements are Spalding Gibbons, piano; Robert Farlice, trumpet; Vernon Slater, tenor; Art Dennis, alto and baritone; Cake Wichard, drums, and Shifty Henry, bass.

Monogram Picture For Jerry Wald

And still another band is being featured in Monogram's series of teen-age musicals. Last month it was Jerry Wald, his clary and orchestra which went under the cameras for "Teen-Agers Go West," which Sammy Katzman is producing for 1947 release. Spade Cooley's western crew also has a spot in the production. Wald recently reorganized his band after a run at the Palladium. His new group is heavy on strings, light on brass.

singers' stuff

TONY MARTIN will probably sign with Universal Pictures now that he's no longer under contract at MGM as a singer. He asked for and received his release from Leo the Lion. But the studio put to an end rumors that Judy Garland might be leaving. Under her new binder she will star with Gene Kelly in "The Good Old Summertime."

Winner of Jo Stafford's "Cindy" contest on the NBC Chesterfield program was James J. Cusick, 815 Mill, Dunmore, Pa. Miss Stafford now broadcasts the show from Hollywood twice-weekly.

Lana Turner is said to be backing young baritone Nick Delano, a Dave Hudkins discovery.

Connie Haines back from long theater tour with Mick Rooney.

All the bands around town are hustling to get "I Ain't Mad at You" in the books. It's one of those silly novelties that's contagious enough to sweep the nation just as "Cement Mixer" did a year ago. Jesse Price waxed it.

Phil Washburne, singing trombonist, out of Bob Crosby's band.

Desi Arnaz opened his own offices at 1076 N. Fairfax in Hollywood.

Andy Russell intends to make a national tour this spring to plug his records and film, "Copacabana," that will last six months.

Dinning Sisters have been waxing discs for Cap while in H'wood.

Julie Gibson, former ork oriole, bagged "Sound Off" stanza from here.



JOAN LARRY is an acrobatic dancer, a flier and canary. Recently she's been featured with Skitch Henderson's new Hollywood dance band. And if those details don't do it these should: Weight, 122; bust, 34; hips, 35; eyes, blue; hair, blonde. She hails from Ithaca, N.Y.

—Photo by Gene Lester

Kassel, Stabile At the Aragon

Art Kassel and his "Castles in the Air" orchestra are on the west coast for the first time in many years as the major attraction at the Aragon Ballroom on Lick Pier in nearby Ocean Park.

Kassel's group, a unit styled a la Lombardo, alternates with Dick Stabile's new west coast aggregation. Both outfits will hold forth through January.

Desi Arnaz opened his own offices at 1076 N. Fairfax in Hollywood.

Frankie Laine jumped up Vine street to the Morocco after many months as top Billy Berg's attraction.

Vet conductor Mark Warnow has moved from Manhattan to L.A. permanently and is doing the "Hit Parade" show (starring Andy Russell) and "Sound Off" stanza from here.



who's where

COUNT BASIE: Avodon Ballroom.
JACK TEAGARDEN: Susie-Q Club.
CHARLIE SPIVAK: Palladium.
RED NICHOLS: Club Morocco.
ROY ELDRIDGE: Billy Berg's.
ART KASSEL: Aragon Ballroom.
DICK STABILE: Aragon Ballroom.
LOUIS JORDAN: Billy Berg's opening, Jan. 15.

RAY HERBECK: Meadowbrook.
RAY BAUDUC: Club Babalu.
SLIM CAILLARD: Florentine Gardens.
CHARLIE BARNET: Casino Gardens.
GEECHIE SMITH: Cricket Club.
MARV ASHBAUGH: Hangover Club.
MANNY STRAND: Earl Carroll's.
EMIL BAFFA: Florentine Gardens.
FREDDY MARTIN: Hotel Ambassador.
RUSS MORGAN: Biltmore Hotel.
MATTY MALNECK: Slapsy Maxie's.
HOWARD MCGHEE: Club Royale.
ANITA O'DAY: Billy Berg's.
ABBEY BROWNE: Foy's Supper Club.
DESI ARNAZ: Ciro's.
PHIL OHMAN: Mocambo.
VICTOR VINCENT: Roosevelt Hotel.
HOLLYWOOD FOUR BLAZES: Randini's.
BOBBY SHORT: The Haig.
DUKE SHAFFER: Casablanca.
THREE BITS OF RHYTHM: Billy Berg's.
FRANKIE LAINE: Club Morocco.
BENNY GOODMAN: NBC, Hollywood, Mondays only.

LES BROWN: On Vacation in Beverly Hills.
WOODY HERMAN: On Vacation in Hollywood.
HARRY JAMES: On Vacation at Santa Anita.
BENNY CARTER: On Vacation in Hollywood.

H-O for Geechie At Cricket Club

Geechie Smith, his hot horn and band drew another holdover at the Cricket Club, Los Angeles, and will remain there through January. Smith recently signed a Capitol recording contract and his "Let the Good Times Roll" is clicking in the jukebox. His band of seven men has drawn good patronage to the Cricket despite the show biz slump of recent months.



...and an alumnus of Washington University, St. Louis. In school he wanted to become a golf pro but music led him from the fairways to a mike. Occasionally he even reviews the new discs on the air. And it takes a lot to please him!

JERRY COLONNA
WITH WESLEY TUTTLE AND HIS TEXAS STARS

'OH WHY, OH WHY,
DID I EVER LEAVE WYOMING'
WITH MERLE TRAVIS

WHEN ROSIE RICCOOLA
DO THE HOO LA MA BOOLA'

CAP.330

Capitol
RECORDS

THE CAPITOL

Cliffie Stone Hops From Control Booth to 'Mike' With New Capitol Contract

By LEE GILLETTE

Cliffie Stone has headed up the folk department of Capitol Records for the past six months as recording supervisor. While selecting and writing many hits for Capitol's cowboys, he has found time to discover a couple of top recording artists, Merle Travis and Tex Williams. At the same time, Capitol watched Stone's rise in popularity on the many radio shows he does on Los Angeles stations. Now Capitol is proud to announce that along with other duties, Cliffie is now a recording artist on his own.

On the Air Since 1935

His first Capitol record, with Cliffie on vocals, will be released this month.

Meet the Jockey!

DAVE GARROWAY is rated by many as "the hippest platter pilot in the Windy City." He's also noted as a crack golfer, a wit and a sucker for harpsichord solos. Heard nightly on NBC outlet WMAQ in Chi, Dave is 33, and has spent a good portion of his life studying and learning music. As a jazz enthusiast he has no equal in Chicago, and visiting bandleaders rate him as one of the best-informed jocks in the land. Dave is a navy veter-

an and an alumnus of Washington University, St. Louis. In school he wanted to become a golf pro but music led him from the fairways to a mike. Occasionally he even reviews the new discs on the air. And it takes a lot to please him!

Big Hit Disc for Travis

Merle Travis' second Capitol record is sweeping the nation, and for the past 12 weeks has been the most played folk song on the coin machines from coast to coast. "Divorce Me C.O.D." was written by Travis and Cliffie Stone, and although the number has been banned by two networks, it is still No. 1 with Travis followers. Merle's next record is even better, and you'll agree when you hear "So Round, So Firm, So Fully Packed," also written by Travis and Stone. At present, Merle is getting set for a fast tour of the south at the request of his many fans.

Tex Williams is still playing to capacity crowds at his big Palace Barn Dance in Los Angeles. Everybody requests Tex to play "Leaf of Love," which has just been released.

Ken Nelson, musical director of WJJD in Chicago, left Hollywood for home after a two-week visit to Capitol recording and transcription sessions. In addition to programming many Capitol transcriptions on WJJD, Ken does sessions for Capitol in Chicago with Uncle Henry's Mountaineers and Karl and Harry.

Disney and Capitol Combine to Produce
THIS DELIGHTFUL ALBUM!

"Greater than Snow White," critics rave
...and only this Disney-Capitol album
scores with the Original Cast!

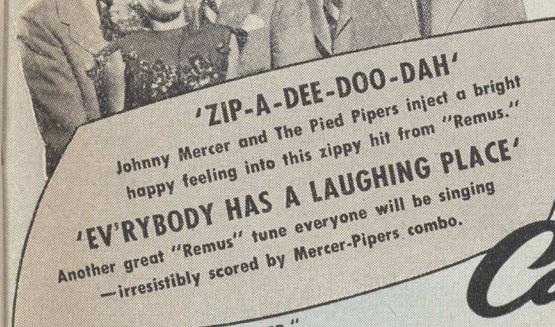


ALBUM CC-40 \$3.00 plus tax

This brand new screen delight is hailed by tough critics as Disney's greatest. And Capitol's "Uncle Remus" Album captures all the magical charm and lilting music from this memorable picture because it is performed by the original cast—plus Johnny Mercer and The Pied Pipers!

You'll love the delightful dialog of Uncle Remus, Bre'r Rabbit, the wily fox and dull-witted bear, in these stories from the picture. Kids from 2 to 62 will enjoy this album!

Your copy is waiting at the nearest record dealer.



'ZIP-A-DEE-DOO-DAH'
Johnny Mercer and The Pied Pipers inject a bright happy feeling into this zippy hit from "Remus."
'EV'RYBODY HAS A LAUGHING PLACE'
Another great "Remus" tune everyone will be singing
—irresistibly scored by Mercer-Pipers combo.

"SOONER OR LATER."

You'll like this solid dance arrangement of this hit tune from "Remus" ... played by Billy Butterfield, with a smooth vocal by Pat O'Connor. (Record 305.) It's backed by "STARDUST," with brilliant Butterfield trumpeting!

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★ Meet Mr. Russell, B. B. ★



"BACHELOR OF BALLADS" is the honorary degree awarded Andy Russell during Christmas week by students of Los Angeles' Woodbury College. Russell is shown accepting the honor from Mary Lamat and Joe Merlo, presi-

dent of the Woodbury student body. The citation was made because of Russell's "unique, personable style and outstanding interpretations of dreamy ballads." It could only happen in California!—Photo by Gene Lester.